

January 8, 2015
Middlesex Municipal Building

The regular meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Borough Hall and called to order by Secretary Linda Chismar:

"This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on December 8, 2014"

Members: Jason Bond
Dan Gitler
Sean Johnson
Jim Gorman (absent)
Frank Ryan (absent)

Secretary Linda Chismar

Jason Bond made a motion to nominate Dan Gitler for the Chairman of the Commission for 2015 seconded by Sean Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Dan Gitler made a motion to nominate Jason Bond for Vice Chairman of the Commission for 2015 seconded by Sean Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Chairman Gitler opened the meeting to the public. Seeing that there was no public participation, Chairman Gitler closed the public portion of the meeting.

Chairman Bond made a motion to approve the December 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Mr. Bond moved to accept the December, 2014 Finance Report seconded by Chairman Bond and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Communications - None

1. 316 Raphael Avenue – Ms. Perello called the secretary on January 5, 2015 and notified her that a branch fell from her sycamore tree in the front of her property, which had recently been pruned by Predator, and damaged her Mercedes. She was advised to bring in the estimates for this damage, along with filing a Borough Insurance Claim Form and it would be forwarded to the Middlesex County JIF. The Shade Tree Commission requested that the secretary have Predator go out to do an aerial inspection of the shade trees on her property to look for rotting.

Work Agenda

- (1) 201 Sherman Avenue – Commission agreed that one dead pin oak and one dead maple should be removed along the service road and stumps should be grinded.
- (2) 307-311 Greene Avenue – Commission agreed that at this time Mr. Ryan, Chairman of the Victor Crowell Park Committee should refer these trees to his committee.
- (3) 433 Melrose Avenue – Mr. Bond checked on this tree and feels that nothing is need at this time.
- (4) 236 Fairfield Avenue – Mr. Gitler inspected this tree in the front of the property and decided that nothing is needed at this time.
- (5) 207 Walnut Street – Commission determined that the pin oak on this property needs a crown cleaning.
- (6) 315 First Street – Commission decided that this tree needs a crown cleaning and would like Predator to do an aerial inspection of the canopy to look for any decay that might not be visible from the ground.

Unfinished Business

- (A) Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – Subcommittee will review this ordinance and follow up at the February 12, 2015 meeting.
- (B) Update on Tree Management Plan – Mr. Cowie will be attending the February 12, 2015 Meeting to discuss with the commission the goals that they would like to accomplish with this management plan and move forward.
- (C) Update on Remaining Work for the 2015 Budget – Commission was informed by the secretary of the remaining work from 2014 which is outstanding for the 2015 budget.
- (D) Update on Purchase of Door Knob Hangers – Secretary will be getting an estimate from FST Printing for 100 door knob hangers for the Shade Tree to distribute throughout town and request plantings.

New Business

Commission discussed changing the Shade Tree Ordinance, along with the fees for removing trees, so that it states that when the Shade Tree removes a tree, this location will automatically be required to get a new tree when the commission plants the following planting season. Before the ordinance is formally brought forth to the Council, the Commission would like to automatically put the residents on the list for a new planting, and they agreed that they would advise the residents before the final list is made.

Mr. Bond moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chairman Gitler and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 12, 2015 – 6:30 PM
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Linda at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238

